

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10 and 13-15 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 8 have been amended. Claims 5, 9 and 11-15 have been canceled. No claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10 are now pending and submitted for reconsideration.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,167,808 ("Mramor"). Claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter of canceled claim 15. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reason.

The rejection should be withdrawn because Mramor fails to disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention. For example, Mramor does not disclose, teach or suggest an initiator with "an electrode pin; and a cylindrical terminal with an outward flange at a leading end of the terminal for retaining a connector; wherein ... the cylindrical terminal surrounds the electrode pin," as called for by claim 8. The Examiner contends Mramor discloses an electrode pin 64, a cylindrical terminal 70, and a tip 92 as a connector-retaining portion. (Office Action at p. 4). The Examiner correctly does not contend that the first terminal 70 disclosed in Marmor includes "an outward flange...for retaining a connector" as called for in claim 8. However, because Marmor fails to disclose this element of claim 8 and, thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The deficiencies of the disclosure of Marmor are clear. As shown in Fig. 2, Marmor discloses a first terminal 70 and a second terminal 80. The first terminal of Marmor has a hollow cylindrical configuration. (Marmor at col. 2, line 57). The second terminal 80 extends through the central opening in the first terminal. (Marmor at col. 2, line 65). However, the first terminal 70 clearly does not include a flange and is not for retaining a connector. To the contrary, the tip 92 (the alleged connector retaining portion) extends from and is an end portion of the second terminal 80 and not the first terminal 70. Thus, as stated above, Mramor does not disclose, teach or suggest an initiator with "an electrode pin; and a cylindrical terminal with an outward flange at a leading end of the terminal for retaining a

connector” as called for in claim 8. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-7, 10 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mramor and applicants’ prior art (Fig. 3) (“APA”). Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the elements of claims 13 and 14, respectively. Claim 4 has been amended to include the elements of claim 5.

The rejection should be withdrawn at least because the cited references (alone or in combination) fail to disclose, teach or suggest a “cylindrical terminal protruding ... coaxially with the electrode pin [and] the cylindrical terminal surrounds the electrode pin,” as called for by independent claims 1 and 7. The Examiner admits that the [APA] “fails to teach or suggest a cylindrical terminal protruding from the other side of the header coaxially with the electrode pin; and a connector-retaining portion at a leading end of the cylindrical terminal.” (Office Action at p. 2). Mramor does not cure the deficiencies of the APA. For example, Mramor does not disclose “a connector-retaining portion provided at a leading edge of the cylindrical terminal” as called for in claims 1 and 7. As explained above, in Mramor, the tip 92 (the connector retaining portion) extends from and is an end portion of the second terminal 80 and not the first terminal 70. Thus, neither reference discloses at least this feature of the claimed invention and the rejection should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 7 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-3 depend from claim 1 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in these dependent claims.

Additionally, APA and Mramor, taken together or separately, fail to disclose, teach or suggest “a connector-retaining portion provided at a leading end of the electrode pin, and wherein the connector-retaining portion is shaped like a cone that decreases in diameter toward a leading end thereof,” as called for by claim 4 and similarly in claim 10.

The Examiner admits that APA fails to disclose a connector-retaining portion at a leading end of the cylindrical terminal. *See* Office Action at p. 2. However, the Examiner contends that that Mramor discloses a connector-retaining portion at reference numeral 96. The Examiner is incorrect because reference numeral 96 does not refer to a connector retaining portion. On the contrary, reference numeral 96 refers to a frustoconical surface of the second terminal 80. *See* Mramor at col. 3, line 19. The frustoconical surface 96 is part of a tip 92 of the end portion 80 of the second terminal 80, and the surface 96 of the tip 92 is *not* a connector-retaining portion.

The tip 92 merely makes contact with conductive contact arms 182 and collaborates with the spring 150. *See* Mramor at Figs. 5 and 6. The tip 92 connects with the spring 150 to prevent accidental firing of the initiator 10. *See* Mramor at col. 4, lines 5-23. In Mramor, the structure for retaining the connector 40 to the initiator 10 includes locking tabs 178 and a connector position assurance member (CPA) 190. The CPA “prevents removal of the electrical connector 40 from the initiator 10.” *See* Mramor at col. 5, lines 29-30; and Figs. 5-6. Thus, neither the tip 92 nor the associated frustoconical surface 96 are a “connector-retaining portion.” Thus, the rejection is flawed and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4 and 10 are respectfully requested.

Claim 6 depends from claim 4 and is allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in this dependent claim.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

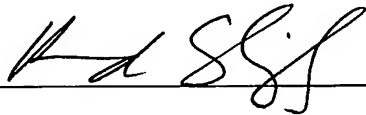
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated,

otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____

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